

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method is provided for converting an Access Point (AP) in a
5 wireless network into a Probe device for performing probe operations. WLAN managers
may thus temporarily direct certain APs in the WLAN to instead behave as Probes.
Communication between the AP and the stations is re-directed to one or more other APs
in the WLAN either before or after the AP transitions into a Probe device. When a
system manager determines that enough Probe data has been collected, the Probe device
10 may be transitioned back into an AP. With such an arrangement, a system manager can
control the placement and operation of Probes in the WLAN, without the added expense
or manual intervention required in providing dedicated Probe devices.